

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 12-13 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 12-13 are amended; and Claims 6 and 11 are canceled by the present amendment. Independent Claims 1-4, 9 are amended to incorporate features of Claim 6, and independent Claim 10 is amended to incorporate the features of canceled Claim 11. No new matter is presented.

This amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 which after final rejection permits entering the amendments, canceling claims, complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action, or presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. The present amendment amends independent Claims 1-4, 9 and 10 to incorporate features of one of Claims 6 and 11, thus placing the present application in condition for allowance. This amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-4 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Applicants' Background (herein, Background) in view of Tsunehara et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,907,260, herein Tsunehara) and Raaf (U.S. Pat. 7,065,183); Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Background in view of Tsunehara, Raaf and Komatsu (U.S. Pub. 2001/0023188); Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Tsunehara in view of Kuo et al. (U.S. Pat No. 6,542,718, hereinafter Kuo); and Claims 6-8 and 11-13 are objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, independent Claims 1-4 and 9 are amended to incorporate the features of now-canceled Claim 6, and Claim 10 is amended to incorporate the features of now-canceled Claim 11. Further, Claims 5 and 7-8 depend from independent Claim 4, and Claims 12 and 13 depend from independent Claim 10.

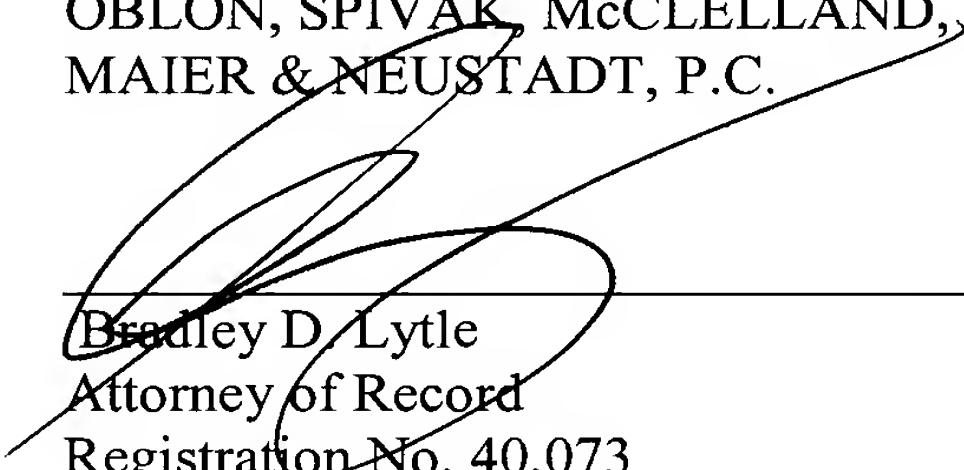
Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 12-13 are in condition for formal allowance, and respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 1-5 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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